

Leicester Square London 15 May  
1776 Richard Clarkhelin  
or Cophin

Dear Brother,

The account brought us two days since of the unexpected removal of His Troops from Boston has filled me with distressing sensations for my friends that I left in that place, and especially for you, and your family; your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> March rec'd last Evening has given me some relief, as I have the pleasure to find by it, that you kept your spirits in so good a manner; however I can't help feeling very uneasy apprehensions of the difficulties you have to struggle with. I pray God to keep you & yours under his gracious protection & guidance. You don't mention anything particularly of Sister, but I presume she had happily got through her difficulties; I beg you would present my affectionate regards to her, and my Louisa.

I have since I have been here wrote you many letters, and have, as I remember, generally wrote 1775 & 1776 Bristol at the same time under cover to you. Every of them should come to your hands, you will have <sup>been</sup> advised of what has occurred to me and some of my children since I left you, but tract by the change of your situation my letters should have failed reaching you, I would just mention, that I had a short and comfortable passage of 25 days to London and on my arrival in London found that both my Sons had arrived at Bristol, with their effects from <sup>2nd Decr</sup> Beaufort; and that Mr. Copley had returned from Italy, and that my Daughter & the Children were

were all in good health - I have now to advise you, that my Sons have both, within these few days left us, to return to the place they came from, they are appointed Assistant Commissioners, with a ship of twenty Killings each of day, whilst in service, and I have good reason to think they will afterwards have half pay. Son Tom I went out with Mr Brook Watson in his Ship Canadian, & Son Isaac in the Ship Prentiss Capt'd Brash; both Ships are well fitted, and have Troops aboard; what will be the event of their enterprise, is known only to the Sovereign Disposer of all things, to Him I commit them, I think they are in the way of their duty - I advised you early that I had received your draft on Mr Hayley and deposited the same in <sup>as</sup> Becker's hands, and that I should reserve it for your order. I have written you frequently of some provisions that I was shipping in a Convalescent Ship, that I found on my arrival was intended then to sail soon for Boston with supplies & were raised by subscription for the Army; this Vessel by some unaccountable delay, did not leave London till three months after the time first given out; I have heard within these few days that she is still at Portsmouth waiting for the sailing of the grand fleet, if this report is true, it may perhaps be the means of saving this valuable Ship from falling into wrong hands; the name of this Ship is the Renown the Master name - I have forgot. The articles which I shipped by this Vessel, and some of them, which could not be got aboard her, and went by another vessel which left this place soon after the Renown, and were shipped one half on your acc't. the other on Mr Cromfitch's, and went

under

under the name of your Friend Major Small, the invoices of them  
and the receipts I forwarded to you, by the respective Vessels, the  
names of the last Ship's Master I do not at present recollect; but if the  
arrives where you may be, my letter by her will inform you of the  
needful. The Articles sent, were Beef, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Candles,  
Sewer, Pease, tripe, (and some potatoes were provided, but could not  
be got aboard either Vessel, and I fear this last article is lost). I have  
not received an exact account of their cost & charges, but estimate  
your half to amount to £11 or 16. This adventure should come  
to your hands, unless less accountable to Mr. Bromfield for one-  
half the proceeds; I fear that through the long detention of the  
Renown, some of the Articles may spoil. I did all in my power  
to send you out some speedy supplies, and am sorry I had no better  
success, no freight is payable to either Vessel. I also shipt you  
under the care of Mrs. Berland who designed out in the Renown a  
box which was directed to that Gentleman from Mr. Clarke contg'd  
shoes for my Cousin, a fome for my Daughter Bromfield, and a bottle  
Sal. Volatile, and 1/2 Pint wine pack'd by it self. That Gentleman fell  
sick at Gravesend, but I heard that he forwarded these articles  
by some other passenger, I also sent you 3 pair of shoes for your  
self by Mrs. Brinsley who sailed about a fortnight since in the Barque  
Capt. Mowat. The cost of the aforesaid is something more than £5 -  
the remainder of your money will rest for your orders. I find it diffi-  
cult to improve money safely for private security, & under the present  
situation

situation of Affairs, many people think, that Stocks must fall -

If any of my letters to Mrs or Mr. Bromfield should come to your hands, I beg your care of them until they can be safely conveyed, and if no such opportunity should offer that you would burn them. If Capt Beau's Davis, or Capt Minot should be with you please to inform that I have wrote each of them advising that I had rec'd payment for their Bills, and that their money rests in <sup>my</sup> Captain's hands. If you can anyways convey any intelligence to Mrs. Bromfield or his Wife, please to let them know that it is my advice to them, not to come to England, if they <sup>can</sup> possibly stay in America, which I think they may do in some place or other. Please to give my love to Brother Oliver & Capt. Loring Clarke who I hear is gone with the Judges, and my compliments to the Gentleman of my acquaintance who may be with you, & particularly to Mr. Daniel & his Lady. I have wrote Mr. Daniel under cover to you by some of the Gentlemen who design our next Lord How. It's thought that many of the refugees from Boston will come here, I hope if any of my Friends design it, they will be aware of the unavoidable expence, which must accrue. - As to Public Affairs, I must beg leave to refer you to those who have a more certain knowledge of them than I can pretend to, and have now only time or paper, but to add my hearty wishes for the comfort and happiness of you & your family. I am

Dear Sir Your affectionate Brother

Richard Clarke